

Table of Dimensions.

	Male.		Female.	
	From	To	From	To
	inches.	inches.	inches.	inches.
Whole length*.....	56	52	53	48
Expanse.....	99·5	90	92	83
Wing.....	26	23	24	22·5
Tail from vent.....	9·5	8	8·25	7·75
Tarsus.....	12	11	11·5	9
Bare portion of tibia....	5·5	5	5·5	4·5
Foot, greatest length....	7·5	7	7	6·875
—, — width.....	8·5	8	8·25	7·75
Middle toe.....	5	4·25	4·5	4·0625
—, its claw.....	·7711	·75	·6875	·5937
Hind toe.....	1·125	1	1	·9375
—, its claw.....	·5	·4375	·4375	·375
Bill.....	7·75	7·5	7·5	6·5
Gape.....	8	7·75	7·625	6·75
Width of gape.....	1·3125	1·125	1·125	1·125
Height of bill.....	·9375	·875	·8437	·8437
Weight.....	19lb.	16lb.	16lb.	12·5lb.

Agra, June 4th, 1867.

III.—*An Eighth additional List of Birds from Natal.*

By J. H. GURNEY, F.Z.S.

(Plate II.)

THE collection of birds from Natal enumerated in the following list was forwarded to me some time since by my friend Mr. Thomas Ayres; but in consequence of his notes referring to the collection having been accidentally delayed, there has been also a delay in transmitting to 'The Ibis' the list now sent, which is numbered consecutively to those previously communicated †, my

* The dimensions are maxima and minima of eight males and six females, all adults. The female with the tarsus 9 inches was, in this respect, an exceptional bird.

† See 'Ibis,' 1859, p. 234; 1860, p. 203; 1861, p. 128; 1862, pp. 25 and 149; 1863, p. 320; 1864, p. 346; 1865, p. 263.

own remarks being, as before, distinguished from those of Mr. Ayres by brackets and initials.

284. *ERYTHROPUS AMURENSIS* (Radde) ; *Falco vespertinus*, var. *amurensis*, Radde, Reis. Sib. ii. p. 102, tab. i. fig. 2 ; Ibis, 1866, p. 119. Eastern Red-footed Hobby. (Plate II.)

Iris hazel ; eyelids and bare skin orange ; bill dark orange, black at the tip ; tarsi and feet dark orange.

Numbers of these pretty Falcons may be seen during the summer months about the open downs in the neighbourhood of Maritzburg, but are not (so far as I know) found there in winter. They hunt in company, sometimes as many as twenty together, well scanning the ground for grasshoppers and other insects, of which their food seems almost entirely to consist. They do not generally remain long on the wing, alighting on any low plant, ant-heap, or on the level ground, in twos and threes. They are not particularly shy ; one may get within fifty yards of them without much difficulty. They seem to prefer marshy ground to hunt over.

[The very curious circumstance of the occurrence in South-eastern Africa of this species, which had previously been known only as an inhabitant of Amuria and of Northern China, has been already mentioned in 'The Ibis' (*loc. cit.*), where a brief reference to the specimens sent from Natal by Mr. Ayres was made.

These specimens were three in number, two males and one female,—all, I believe, adult. I have also received from my friend Mr. Andersson an adult male obtained at the Knysna, on the south-eastern coast of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope ; and I have had the opportunity of examining a female specimen in the British Museum, procured in South Africa by Mr. Charles Livingstone, and believed to have been obtained near the River Shiré.

The examples from South-east Africa appear to me to be specifically identical with specimens of both sexes in the Norwich Museum obtained in Northern China, consisting of a male and female from Yoon Ying, near Peking, and of two males from the neighbourhood of Talien Bay.

The question whether the Red-footed Hobby of India belongs to the present species, or to its western congener, *Erythropus vespertinus*, is one which, in the absence of Indian specimens, I am unable to decide, and to which I would beg the attention of ornithologists resident in that country*. (Cf. Ibis, 1866, p.119.)

With regard to the distribution of *E. amurensis* in South Africa, I may add that Mr. Andersson informs me that he has obtained one example in Damara Land, where, however, *E. vespertinus* is the common species and is, indeed, so numerous that, in a letter dated February 16, 1866, Mr. Andersson writes to me that it "appears during the wet season in incredible numbers; they then come, not by thousands, but literally by tens of thousands."

Of the specific distinction between *E. amurensis* and *E. vespertinus* I cannot entertain the slightest doubt. The adult male of the former differs from that of the latter in having the under wing-coverts of a pure white, instead of a slaty black, as well as in the slightly darker colouring of its upper parts. The female of *E. amurensis* differs from the female of the other species in the absence of rufous colouring on the head, neck, and under parts, except the thighs and under tail-coverts, which are rufous in it as in the female of *E. vespertinus*, and also excepting a very slight rufous tinge on the sides of the neck and throat and on the under wing-coverts, near the carpal joint. The plumage of all the under parts in the female of *E. amurensis*, excepting that of the throat (which is pure white), the thighs, and the under tail-coverts, is strongly marked with ovate and sagittate spots of dark slaty black on a white ground, which markings assume a transverse form on the under wing-coverts and lower flank-feathers, and produce a general appearance of the under parts considerably resembling the front view of the adult common Hobby (*Hypotriorchis subbuteo*).

The characteristic peculiarities of this species will be apparent on reference to the accompanying plate, from a drawing by Mr. Wolf, of an adult male and female from Natal, and of a nestling

* Since the above was written, Mr. G. R. Gray has been good enough to tell me of a specimen in the British Museum, brought from Nepal, which I agree with him in considering an immature female of *E. amurensis*.

specimen obtained near Talien Bay, in Northern China, by Mr. Swinhoe, in July 1860 (*Ibis*, 1861, pp. 253, 254), which also forms part of the collection of the Norwich Museum.—J. H. G.]

285. *COTYLE CINCTA* (Bodd.). Brown-collared Martin.

Total length 6·5 inches; iris dark hazel.

These birds I have only found inland. Their flight much resembles that of the Rollers, and they make a loud chattering noise whilst flying. The specimen sent I shot in February near Pieter-Maritzburg; it is a heavy, large-sized Swallow, solitary and scarce. The stomach contained good-sized beetles, somewhat broken up.

286. *NECTARINIA CHALYBEIA* (Linn.). Lesser Double-colored Sun-bird.

Male. Total length 5 inches; bill ·93 in.

Female. Total length 4·5 inches; bill ·81 in.

Iris dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

These Sun-birds appear to be most plentiful in July and August, the females being the more numerous. In habits and appearance they resemble *N. afra*. When the peach-trees are in full blossom these Sun-birds may be seen actively engaged in sucking the nectar, and in taking the small insects from the blossoms, the males chasing each other away from their mates with many a rapid evolution, so that it requires a good eye to follow them. They have a very sweet, though not a loud, song; and many a time have I sat under the bush the bird was on, only a few feet above my head, and listened with pleasure to his sweet warblings.

287. *NECTARINIA FAMOSA* (Linn.). Malachite Sun-bird.

Male. Total length 10·25 in. Iris dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

Female. Total length 6 inches.

This species is found more in the inland part of the colony, frequenting the open country, feeding upon the nectar of the various kinds of aloes abounding in some localities, and also on that of some species of lilies which are numerous in many of the valleys. When disturbed, they generally fly right away, unless

their attention is attracted by some flower or by others of their own species.

288. *IRRISOR CYANOMELAS* (Vieill.). Little Blue-and-black Irrisor.

Total length 10·5 inches; iris dusky; bill and feet black.

These Hoopoes are very scarce in Natal, mostly frequenting the inland thorn-bush, though occasionally found near the coast. They are always seen either singly or in pairs (not in families, like *I. erythrorhynchus*), and may be seen creeping about the thorn-trees, picking beetles and other insects from the crevices of the rough bark. The hen bird sent was busily engaged upon a swarm of white ants, which had worked their way up on the surface of a tree.

[The male bird sent exhibits the accidental peculiarity of three white contiguous feathers in the upper covert of the left wing.

Judging from collections sent to this country by Mr. Anderson, I should suppose this species to be much more abundant in Damara Land than in Natal.—J. H. G.]

289. *SAXICOLA BIFASCIATA*, Temm. Bifasciated Wheatear.

Male. Iris dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

These birds I found near the Upper Movi River; but they are more plentiful on the Drankensberg, in the Transvaal Republic, frequenting rocky hills and feeding on insects.

290. *SAXICOLA MONTICOLA* (Vieill.). Mountain-Wheatear.

Iris dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This bird I shot in the Free State of Transvaal, but I also saw one on the banks of a small stream near the Jugela in Natal. It appears to be solitary in its habits, frequenting the steep banks of rivers, and is very shy and scarce. It moves the tail up and down precisely as the Wagtails do. The stomach of the one I obtained was well filled with insects.

291. *MYRMECOCICHLA FORMICIVORA* (Vieill.). Ant-eating Wheatear.

Female. Bill, tarsi, and feet black.

I first met with this Chat near the Jugela River in the upper district of Natal, and found that it gradually became more plen-

tiful over the Drakensberg, in the Free State and Transvaal Republic.

These birds often rise a short distance in the air with a fluttering flight, but are mostly seen perched on the ant-heaps which abound in this country. They feed on insects.

292. *TURDUS OLIVACEUS*, Linn. Olive Thrush.

Male. Iris light ashy-brown; bill yellow, but with the ridge of the upper mandible dark brown; tarsi and feet pale yellow.

These Thrushes appear to be more numerous during the winter than the summer months. They frequent the bush-range along the coast, and are tolerably plentiful. I sometimes find their claws much worn, as if employed in scratching for their food. They very seldom utter a note, and might well be called the "Silent Thrush."

293. *CAMPEPHAGA MELANOXANTHA* (Licht.). Southern Yellow-shouldered Caterpillar-eater.

The plumage of the male bird is of a metallic greenish-black, with a bright yellow patch on each shoulder. The females are far more numerous than the males, and are generally found in small companies when moving about. In appearance and shape, and also in flight, they much resemble the hen bird of the Emerald Cuckoo [*Chrysococcyx smaragdineus*, Ibis, 1859, p. 246]. This species inhabits the coast-range. I have frequently seen the yellow-shouldered males with the females, and also frequently solitary. Of the entirely black Caterpillar-eater [*Campephaga nigra*, Ibis, 1864, p. 350] I remember to have seen only one specimen, which I forwarded.

[This species much resembles *C. xanthornoides* (Lep.) of Western Africa; but the yellow shoulder-patch of the adult male is smaller and less orange-coloured than that of the western species—a distinction which is well pointed out by Dr. Cabanis (Mus. Hein. i. p. 61), who, however, supposes the present species to be identical with *C. nigra*, in which opinion I do not agree, for the same reasons which I have given for separating this last from the western *C. xanthornoides* (Ibis, 1864, p. 350). The female bird sent by Mr. Ayres appears to agree exactly with the figure of "l'Echenilleur Jaune" given by Le Vaillant

(pl. 164). Dr. Cabanis mentions that the young male also wears this livery*.—J. H. G.]

294. *JUIDA BICOLOR* (Gmel.). White-rumped Grakle.

Male. Iris very light yellow; the upper mandible and the tip of the lower mandible black; the base (which is slightly wattled), the gape, and the tongue yellow.

These birds feed upon *Acari* and other insects. I found them first upon the Bushman's River in Upper Natal, and in increasing numbers (where the locality was favourable) all along the road to Potchefstroom, in the Transvaal, where they are very plentiful. They are gregarious, and feed upon the ground. Their flight is heavy.

295. *ESTRElda CUCULLATA* (Swains.). Hooded Finch.

Iris reddish brown; upper mandible black, under mandible ashy.

These birds were given to me by my friend the late Mr. Richard Norris.

296. *ESTRElda CARMELITA*, Hartlaub, sp. nov. Carmelite Finch.

Male. Iris dusky; bill black, but reddish at the base; tarsi and feet dusky.

Shot by myself at Pieter-Maritzburg, on the banks of the Little Bushman River. There were three or four of them, but I only succeeded in getting the specimen sent. Of their habits I know nothing.

[This little Finch being unknown to Mr. G. R. Gray, who kindly examined it for me, and differing from all the species of the genus *Estrelda* now in the British Museum, I submitted it to Dr. Hartlaub, who has also been so good as to examine it, and who writes to me respecting it as follows, in reply to my request that, if new, he would supply it with a specific name and descriptive diagnosis:—

“If really an adult male bird, it is certainly new, and could be described under the name of *Estrelda carmelita*; but is it not a young bird?

* Since writing the above, I have observed that Mr. Layard recognizes the distinctness of *C. nigra*, in his ‘Birds of South Africa,’ p. 182.

"Supra brunnea, subtus multo pallidior, fulvo-brunnescens, subalaribus sordide albidis; remigibus et rectricibus fuscis, dorsi colore marginatis; rostro et pedibus nigricantibus; rostro parvo, breviusculo, incrassato.

"Long. circa 4"; rostr. $3\frac{1}{2}$ "; al. $2\frac{1}{2}$ "; caud. 1" 7"; tars. $7\frac{1}{2}$."

As it appears to me that, even if the present specimen be a young bird, it in all probability belongs to a new and undefined species, I here include it as such under the specific appellation suggested by Dr. Hartlaub, to whom I am much indebted for the careful diagnosis inserted above.—J. H. G.]

297. *COLIUS CAPENSIS* (Gmel.). White-backed Coly.

Male. Irides greyish white; bill black at the tip, dark crimson at the base, as is the cere also; bare skin round the eye bright scarlet; tarsi and feet dark pink. The sexes appear to be similar in plumage.

These birds are entirely fructivorous. They live in companies, and are by no means so common as *C. striatus* [Ibis, 1860, p. 213]; but their habits are very similar to those of that species, except that they are more shy and take wing more readily. In this Coly the tarsus acts apparently as a heel, being quite rough from constant use in climbing.

298. *TURTUR SENEGALENSIS* (Linn.). Senegal Turtle-Dove.

Male. Iris dark brown.

Given to me by the late Mr. Norris. I am unacquainted with its habits.

299. *PERISTERA LARVATA* (Temm.). White-masked Dove.

Male. Iris double, inner circle dusky, outer pink; eyelids and bare skin pink; bill black; tarsi and feet dark pink.

These Pigeons inhabit the dense bush along the coast of Natal, and are generally seen on the ground, silently and busily seeking for food. They are rather shy birds, and not easy to obtain. The best method of doing so is to sit still in those parts of the bush which they frequent, when they soon begin to move about; otherwise they watch from their thick covert any intruder who approaches, and, when he comes within a few yards, fly up with much bustle and are immediately out of sight. Their note is a low melancholy "coo-coo," rather prolonged and very guttural. There is not much difference in the plumage of the sexes; but

the male is brighter and also larger than the female. It is seldom that more than two or three are found together.

300. *PERISTERA AFRA* (Linn.). Bronze-spotted Dove.

This Dove is usually found in pairs. It inhabits the same localities as the Tambourin-Pigeon [*Peristera tympanistria*, Ibis, 1860, p. 214], which it very much resembles in its habits.

301. *EUPODOTIS AFROIDES*, Smith. White-quilled Bustard.

Male. Irides dusky, tawny on the outer edge; bill ashy at the tip, the ridge dusky, base and gape reddish-pink; tarsi and feet yellow. In the immature birds the irides are hazel.

These fine birds are only to be found in the upper districts of Natal, and not plentifully. In the Free State and Transvaal they are, however, very plentiful. The male birds are very noisy, uttering notes something like "knock-me-down, knock-me-down;" and their apparent wishes are very often acceded to. These Bustards are somewhat wary, and are not always easy of approach in the open country; they, however, prefer land well studded with thorn-bush, and there they are more easily got at. They generally run, on the appearance of danger, with great swiftness, and hide in the long grass. In the morning and evening they are often to be seen sunning themselves, perched on some ant-heap.

Their eggs (which, so far as I know, are always two in number) may be found under some long tuft of grass. They are in appearance much like those of the Stanley Bustard [*Eupodotis caffra*, Ibis, 1860, p. 216], though of course much smaller.

302. *EUPODOTIS CÆRULESCENS* (Vieill.). Blue Bustard.

Female. Iris dusky, with the outer ring tawny; bill dusky, but pale at the base; tarsi and feet yellow.

These Bustards are found more along the banks of streams and valleys than is the case with the preceding; but they are also often found amongst stony hills. They are also less noisy than that species, and, I think, also more difficult to approach, being seldom seen till flushed.

303. *EUPODOTIS SENEGALENSIS* (Vieill.). Senegal Bustard.

Male. Iris dusky, outer ring tawny; bill pink-brown at the tip, edges dusky; tarsi and feet pale.

This Bustard is found in the same localities as the preceding species.

Insects form the principal diet of all these three species of Bustard; but the first named feeds, I think, more upon roots than the two last.

[A specimen of this species is now living in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London.—J. H. G.]

304. *VANELLUS CORONATUS* (Gmel.). Crowned Lapwing.

Female. Iris pale yellow; the basal half of the bill bright crimson, the remainder black; tarsi and feet bright pink.

Insects form the diet of these Plovers, which very much resemble *Vanellus melanopterus* [Ibis, 1860, p. 217] in their habits and appearance. They are not found in the coast districts; and I first met with them under the Drakensberg.

305. *CHENALOPEX ÆGYPTIACUS* (Linn.). Egyptian Goose.

Male and Female. Iris dark yellow; bill pink, with tip, margins, and base black; tarsi and feet pink.

Shot in February. The male weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and the female 4 lbs.

These Geese feed on the land early in the morning and towards evening, and are fond of the seed-ears of grasses, which are abundant at certain seasons. During flight they sometimes utter a loud chattering note. They are mostly found in pairs, but sometimes a whole flock may be met with. This species also occurs in the Transvaal.

306. *ANAS FLAVIROSTRIS*, Smith. Yellow-billed Duck.

Male. Iris hazel; bill bright yellow, but with the ridge and the basal half of the lower mandible black; tarsi and feet dusky, tinged with yellow.

I found a pair of these birds in November in the upper part of the Movi River, Natal; and in the Transvaal they are tolerably plentiful, inhabiting the valleys there in some numbers. They frequently lie so close in the rushes, where the water is about knee-deep, as almost to allow themselves to be trodden on. They build, amongst the high rushes, a substantial nest of dry flags well elevated above the water, and generally choose

such lagoons as will not rise sufficiently to flood the nest, except in the case of a very unusual fall of rain.

307. *RHYNCHASPIS CAPENSIS*, Smith. South-African Shoveller.

Female. Iris dark hazel ; bill ashy, but yellowish underneath ; tarsi and feet brownish yellow.

This species is found in the Transvaal as well as in Natal. I have not noticed it on the coast lagoons, and know nothing of its habits.

Mr. Ayres has also sent the following notes relating to species which have been included in my previous lists of Natal Birds :—

BUBO LACTEUS (Temm.). Sultan Owl. (*Ibis*, 1862, p. 284 ; No. 187 B. *Ibis*, 1863, p. 321.)

This splendid Owl was shot in the interior by Mr. Phillips in the month of June. He found it perched on a nest of the Sociable Weaver-birds*, some five feet in diameter, and at first sight mistook it for a large tiger-cat. Mr. Phillips informs me that, when freshly killed, this Owl weighed fourteen pounds.

CYPSELUS CAFER, Licht. White-rumped Swift. (No. 249, *Ibis*, 1865, p. 264.)

I find these Swifts very numerous in the Transvaal—much more so than in Natal. In the town of Potchefstroom a pair have taken possession of a deserted swallows' nest in the church ; and another pair have located themselves in a similar manner in another part of the town ; but whether this is their usual method of finding suitable places to breed in I cannot say †.

PETROCINCLA RUPESTRIS (Vicill.). South-African Rock-thrush. (No. 79, *Ibis*, 1860, p. 209.)

Male. Irides dusky ; bill black ; gape and mouth yellow ; tarsi and feet dusky. Stomach contained insects and berries. This specimen and two others were together. I did not see them settle on rocks or stones, but they alighted on trees and fed on the nectar of the blossom of a species of aloe. I found

* [*Qu. Philetærus socius?*—J. H. G.]

† [*Vide* Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 51.—ED.]

them on a hill called the Changa, between Pieter-Maritzburg and D'Urban—a very precipitous country, where aloes and low bushes are plentiful.

EUPLECTES XANTHOMELAS, Rüppell. Northern Black-and-yellow Finch. (*E. capensis*, No. 268, Ibis, 1865, p. 269.)

Male. Iris dusky, upper mandible black, under mandible pale, but in some specimens both mandibles are black; tarsi and feet pale, tinged with dusky. The glossy black plumage is only assumed during the summer months; in the winter the plumage is brown, but the yellow is retained.

[I find that the specimens sent to me from Natal appear to be identical with the Abyssinian race described and figured by Dr. Rüppell (Syst. Uebers. Vög. N.-O. Afr. p. 67, tab. 28) under the name here given, and that I was therefore wrong in my former determination (*ut supra*) of this bird. It is readily distinguishable from the more southern race by its smaller size and proportionately feebler bill.—J. H. G.]

SYCOBIUS BICOLOR, Vieill. Solitary Weaver-bird. (No. 233, Ibis, 1864, p. 352.) (Variety.)

Female. Iris bright reddish grey; bill white, rather dusky on the ridge; tarsi and feet pale.

This specimen was shot and presented to me by the late Mr. Norris. It was a single bird of the kind amongst a flock of Weavers, and was killed in September 1864 on the Umgeni-flat near the sea-coast.

[I think this specimen is certainly a variety of the species above named. It is very nearly a complete albino; but there is a tinge of brown on the head and of yellow elsewhere, especially on the wings.—J. H. G.]

GALLINAGO NIGRIPENNIS, Bp. South-African Snipe. (No. 245, Ibis, 1864, p. 355.)

Though not plentiful in Natal, these Snipes are extremely so in the swamps surrounding the town of Potchefstroom, in the Transvaal, where they afford excellent shooting, and also breed during the months of July and August. At this season the cock birds are a great deal on the wing—evidently wooing. They fly about like so many Swallows—rising in the air, and

descending with a rapid sweep and beat of the wings to within a few feet of the ground, then rising again and repeating the movement, at the same time making a curious, loud, vibratory, rushing noise, which I once heard as late as midnight on a still moonlight night. The cock birds on the ground almost incessantly utter a loud "chuck, chuck." The hen birds are pretty silent and quiet, merely rising with the usual sharp "quirk."

I find a great difference in the size of the females, those that are laying being much larger than those that are not.

GALLINULA ANGULATA, Sundeval. Natal Gallinule. (*G. pumila*, No. 58, *Ibis*, 1859, p. 249, pl. vii. ; *Ibis*, 1867, p. 254.)

Male. Iris dark red ; bill greenish-yellow, ridge and frontal shield bright scarlet ; tarsi and feet pale yellowish on the outer surfaces.

This species is numerous in the Transvaal, and breeds in the swamps and valleys and also among the high reeds and rushes on the banks of the Movi River ; but I have not yet succeeded in finding a nest of these birds, owing to the inaccessible character of the boggy ground which they frequent.

IV.—*Ornithological Notes from Amoy*. By ROBERT SWINHOE,
Her Majesty's Consul, F.Z.S. &c.

[Continued from 'The Ibis' for 1867, page 413.]

OUR Consulate is situated on a hill overlooking the fine bay which constitutes the outer harbour of Amoy ; and on the evening of July 17th, the day after a heavy gale from the south-east, I strolled into the verandah as the sun was just setting. A strange large bird was soaring over the flagstaff. It seemed to be black, with a white head and belly, and had a long, forked tail and very long wings. In the grace of its flight it surpassed any Kite, and yet it seemed uncouth and unnatural. There was a Gull-like something about its appearance which bespoke its connexion with the sea. To me the sight was a novelty ; but I guessed what the stranger was, and, mad with excitement, I seized my gun and rushed into the green in front of the house. The bird stood motionless in the air, at such a height

